

Docket No: BIELEFELD
Appl. No: 10/041789

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of July 14, 2004.

Record is also made of telephone interviews between applicants' representative and the Examiner as well as the Primary Examiner, which interviews took place on September 9 and September 14, 2004. The Examiners are thanked for their help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of the only independent claim 1 and the claims dependent on claim 1. At the interview, applicants' representative submitted a proposal for changes to claim 1 which relate to a feature of the stiffening elements. The Examiners indicated during the second interview that the proposed changes to claim 1 appear to overcome the prior art of record but an updated search is required to make a final determination about the patentability of independent claim 1.

As a result of the interview, applicant now submits amendments to claim 1, as proposed at the interview.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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